FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 APRIL 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Baghdad Bombings — Two boobytrapped cars exploded in Baghdad on 21 April, killing and injuring a number of people, INA reported. The Iraqi minister of culture and information blamed Iran for the bombings and stressed that Iraq has decided "to avenge" the death of its citizens, the report added. A Tehran-based Iraqi opposition group — the Iraqi branch of the "Martyr Sadr Brigade" — claimed responsibility for the blasts that were directed against the radio-television building and the Air Force Administrative Center in Baghdad, according to AFP. An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, in an interview with IRNA, denied involvement in the bombings and said the Iraqi charge was an attempt to cover up the increasing wave of opposition in that country.

Military Situation — Iraqi aircraft scored a direct hit and destroyed an Iranian vessel approaching the Nowruz oil fields, an Iraqi military communique carried by INA claimed. An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio on 21 April reported that Iranian forces continued to defend their positions in the Maysan-Faqih area and did not mention any naval engagement. IRNA claimed that two oil reservoirs were set ablaze and destroyed at the Iraqi oil installation at Al-Faw. Another IRNA report cited Iranian Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as condemning the missile attack on Dezful and noting that "the USSR and France were greatly involved in this crime" as they were the manufacturers of the missiles.

Israeli-Syrian Tension Over Lebanon, Golan

Israel will do "all it can" to prevent a military confrontation with Syria and wants to defuse the tension along the cease-fire line in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' valley, according to Israeli sources cited by Jerusalem television and radio. Nevertheless, the IDF has taken "surveillance measures" against Syrian military preparations and is closely watching Syrian reinforcements in Lebanon, an IDF source announced in remarks reported by AFP. Meanwhile, in response to an official Lebanese request, Syria banned Syrian and Lebanese airline flights between Damascus and Beirut, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing a Syrian official. The decision was made because of the atmosphere in the Al-Biqa' valley, according to Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon.

Syria will not permit Israel to achieve any military, geographical, political, or economic gains in Lebanon because such gains would jeopardize Syria's security, TISHRIN declared in an article reported by SANA. Warning of the "bad consequences" any Israeli military adventure will have, the paper asserted that Syria is preparing itself for "all possibilities" while Israel is beating the "war drums" in the hope of obtaining U.S. approval for a surprise military strike against Syria in order to carry out plans to partition Lebanon. A Damascus radio commentary said the possibility that negotiations with Israel might result in its giving up the occupied land is refuted by the massive Israeli military buildup in Al-Biqa', the military exercise under way in the Golan, and by a recent "provocative" statement by Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin reaffirming that Israel's law, jurisdiction, and administration will apply to the Golan Heights. President Hafiz al-Asad said the Golan was not occupied under law and will not be liberated under law, the radio went on, and Syria has the means and ability to liberate its land and restore all Arab rights.

President al-Asad received a message from the "Soviet leadership" on 21 April, according to Damascus radio. The radio did not elaborate on the content of the message.

Lebanon Negotiations, Security

No progress was made at the 21 April talks in Khaldah and "bitter differences of opinion" surfaced between Israel and Lebanon on all issues related to security arrangements, Jerusalem radio reported. The delegation heads were unable to resolve the sharp differences which emerged during the military committee's discussion of the security strip, Major Sa'd Haddad's status, UNIFIL, and joint patrols, the radio added. Israeli delegation sources expressed "dismay" that the Lebanese had reneged on verbal agreements reached in earlier deliberations. The radio subsequently noted that Israeli officials would meet on 22 April to examine new ideas aimed at speeding up the negotiations.

In a separate development an IDF soldier was killed in an ambush south of Tyre, Jerusalem radio noted. The Lebanese National Resistance claimed responsibility, according to the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio.

Commenting on the U.S. Embassy bombing, Egypt's AL-AHRAM joined other Arab media in holding Israel responsible. According to Cairo radio, AL-AHRAM said that Israel stood to gain more than any other party from the crime and that the United States should not disregard this in its search for the perpetrators.

PLO Affairs

The PLO Executive Committee met in Tunis under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, who had just returned from Romania, TAP reported. The main items on the agenda were Jordanian-Palestinian relations and efforts to surmount difficulties obstructing a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as well as the planned emergency Arab summit conference, according to a PLO spokesman cited by TAP. Noting Moroccan King Hassan II's efforts to overcome obstacles to a Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the spokesman indicated that the committee was examining proposals aimed at resolving the differences, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The spokesman also said the PLO, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia are in apparent "harmony" over the proposals.

Meanwhile, Budapest television broadcast a recorded interview with 'Arafat in which the PLO leader said he would like to reach agreement with Jordan, "but our point of view is clear and unequivocal." Claiming that all Arab countries have accepted "my proposal" for convening an emergency summit, 'Arafat said the 2-week postponement was made at Syria's request. Asked military preperations are "extremely dangerous and menacing."

Saudi Arabia

A Riyadh radio commentary criticized the U.S. Administration for holding the PLO fully responsible for the failure of the Reagan initiative while failing to blame Israel. The latter rejected the Reagan plan "categorically and without discussion," the radio said, while the PLO saw "some positive aspects" in it and did not reject it out of "desire to reject" but because it ignored Palestinian rights to self-determination and statehood. A Middle East tour by the U.S. secretary of state may consolidate the chances of peace, the radio continued, and President Reagan's recent cable to Syrian President al-Asad was a "constructive step" in this direction.

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UN's Cordovez Comments on Indirect Talks in Geneva

BK211640 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the UN secretary general on Afghanistan, has said he will urge Pakistan and the Babrak Karmal regime to continue the process of UN-supervised indirect talks for a political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. He told the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Geneva yesterday that he feels that the participants of the talks desire a comprehensive political solution of the issue. He said there has been progress in the current indirect talks, which conclude tomorrow, toward a solution to the issue.

The personal representative of the UN secretary general said there has been neither any stalemate in the talks nor any obstacles, and certain reports in this regard are incorrect. He said that he is engaged in the difficult task of formulating a framework for a comprehensive political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. He is trying to base the framework on three important factors which are: withdrawal of troops, voluntary return of refugees, and the guarantee of noninterference.

In reply to a question, Cordovez said Pakistan has not made any change in its categorical stand based on the four principles.

Asked about the proposed visit to Pakistan, during which he will have consultations with Afghan refugees on their return home, he said that no date for the visit has been fixed, as the modalities for consultations have yet to be finalized. Cordovez said that he will meet the UN secretary general in New York on Saturday and submit a report on the second round of indirect talks. The UN secretary general's personal representative reiterated that the entire process of the consultations will be kept secret.

Delegations of Pakistan and the Babrak Karmal regime gave final consideration to the text of the draft which was prepared by Cordovez. On the last day of the indirect talks tomorrow, Cordovez will exchange views with the delegations of the two countries on the statement which will be issued following the second round of negotiations, which opened on the 11th of this month.

Exiled Afghan Officer on Soviet Presence

PM210844 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 16 Apr 83 p 10

[Undated interview in Peshawar with former Afghan Brigadier (Sarwar Shinwari) by Ingvar Oja: "Tired Soviet Soldiers in Afghanistan: How Do We Get Out of This Mess"]

[Text] Soviet officers have had enough the war in Afghanistan and their constant question to their Afghan colleagues is how they should get "out of the mess." So said (Sarwar Shinwari), who up to the end of last year was head of air operations at the large Kvajah Rawash airbase outside Kabul.

Brig (Shinwari) fled from Afghanistan in September last year and is now staying with relaves in a village a few miles outside Peshawar in Pakistan. He speaks thoughtfully and with insight about the war in his homeland and he has an unusually solid background for a military and political analysis of the situation.

At the end of the fifties he was sent to the United States, where he underwent a 6-year training course in radar technology and air defenses.

"But when I returned home the country had changed political course and most equipment was Soviet so I was sent to the Soviet Union for further training."

He spent 6 years in Odessa, where he was trained in air defense using missiles and artillery.

"I have quite good insight into the U.S. and Soviet political systems and I have no doubts about which system is best for Afghanistan," (Shinwari) said. "Communism will never be accepted by the people of Afghanistan."

And the picture (Shinwari) paints of the life of Soviet officers and soldiers inside Afghanistan confirms this assertion. (Shinwari's) reflective approach to explaining the situation inside his war-torn country and his tone which is filled with pathos — but lacks the bombastic chauvinism which you so often come across among Mujahidin spokesmen in Peshawar — are convincing.

The Soviet troops are completely isolated from the Afghans and he laughed loudly when I asked him if he had met his Soviet colleagues socially outside working hours.

"I had no inclination and I think that no Afghan officer has," he said, going on to say how unpopular the Russians are in Kabul.

During his time as head of air operations he came into contact with many Soviet officers and they spoke to him quite openly of their attitude to the war and of the weapons used against the tribal warriors who are combating the Soviet invasion forces. (Shinwari) believes that the Russians' candor was probably a result of the fact that they mistakenly believed that he was a member of the ruling Afghan communist party, the People's Democratic Party.

Through his conversations with the Soviet officers (Shinwari) also discovered that in its warfare the Soviet Union uses chemical weapons. According to (Shinwari), chemical weapons have been used in Konarha and Ghazni Provinces, for example. (Shinwari) did not know whether there were also nuclear arms inside Afghanistan, but there are troops who were trained for and had with them equipment to protect them against nuclear arms.

The Russian conduct of the war obviously has no overall plan, and this indicates that the Soviet Union was taken by surprise by the tough resistance the Soviet soldiers are meeting in Afghanistan.

"The Russians draw up plan after plan, but they have no success," (Shinwari) said. He estimates the number of Soviet troops at between 100,000 and 150,000. The figure varies the whole time because troops are constantly being changed and their presence in the country "overlaps."

Discipline among the Soviet soldiers is very bad. There is much drunkenness and many soldiers have strarted using drugs, primarily hashish. (Shinwari) gave me many examples of how Soviet soldiers get involved in deals with military materiel. They sell gasoline from military stores and they even sell their weapons sometimes in order to be able to buy smuggled capital goods which are not available in the Soviet Union.

Relations between the different branches of the Armed Forces are also poor and Army officers sometimes refuse to help helicopter pilots to clear the way for good landing places. Materiel maintenance is inadequate and large numbers of helicopters stay on the ground because mechanics cannot be bothered to repair them or because they are repaired so badly that they are not safe to fly.

If combat morale among the Russian soldiers is bad, it is even worse among the Afghan soldiers, most of whom are conscripted. They are well paid, but they simply take their pay and flee as soon as they can.

According to (Shinwari), the Afghan Air Force and antiaircraft defenses have been reduced by more than two-thirds and he thinks that the same figure probably applies to the Army. Also the Russians do not trust their Afghan colleagues, and Afghan pilots are never allowed to fly alone, only paired with Soviet pilots, who are always in command.

"Immediately after the coup Afghan officers were kept under surveillance for a time and they always had Soviet soldiers armed with Kalashnikovs at their heels," (Shinwari) said.

Now Soviet and Afghan units have been separated without any normal contacts with each other. Too close contacts often lead to the soldiers' jointly engaging in smuggling rather than warfare. The Soviet officers and soldiers still accuse the Afghans of not taking an active part in the war against the resistance movement. Soviet officers often said in (Shinwari's) presence that "we are doing the job while the Afghans are sleeping."

The Soviet forces are divided into two categories. One acts completely independently, while the other is to "assist" the Afghan forces. There are Soviet "advisers" at all levels inside Afghan units.

"But the Russian 'advisers' are to be found not only in the Army, but throughout the administration; you even meet Soviet 'aid personnel' [bistaandspersonal] in hospitals," (Sinwari) said.

On the subject of the conduct of the war (Sinwari) only told me of his part in air operations. He does not know how great losses are on the Soviet side, but he quotes as an example of a showdown with the resistance movement north of Kabul. In half an hour th Russians lost six large helicopters. The whole armada of helicopters was either shot down or became useless for combat because of poor maintenance.

He has no idea of Soviet losses in terms of lives, but Soviet soldiers die every day. Aeroflot often lifts off from the airfield in Kabul with coffins containing dead soldiers on board.

I was given tangible proof of the Soviet losses one evening at my hotel in Peshawar when an acquaintance threw two sets of Soviet Army papers onto the table. They belonged to two young Russians who had been killed and whose papers the resistance movement had taken. The papers of one of the soldiers were almost new. He was born in 1963 and had been conscripted in 1981. The picture of the soldier showed a smiling young man with wavy hair and a thin, narrow mustache.

Somewhere in the Soviet Union relatives are mourning a young man killed in an inhospitable country, in a war whose cause probably none of them understands.

Leftist Rebel Leader on Infighting Problems

PM211430 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Apr 83 p 7

[Interview with 'Abdol Qayyum, chairman of the United National Front of Afghanistan, by Patrice De Beer in Paris — date not specified]

[Text]" The fighting among the resistance forces continues in several regions of the country. The Russians' new tactic is to penetrate and infiltrate the resistance and to incite the groups to fight one another. This is our principal problem, and we must have the courage to face reality: We are separated, isolated, split." This is the assement just given to LE MONDE by 'Abdol Qayyum, chairman of the United National Front of Afghanistan and one of the leaders of the leftwing Sama party, during a stopover in Paris after attending the Socialist International congress in Portugal.

The United National Front is one of the smallest and least known of the Afghan resistance organizations. In view of the powerful Islamic movements based in Peshawar which maintain relations with the Pakistanis, in a country where the "socialism" practiced since 1978 by the Kabul regime has prompted the rejection of the majority of the population, it could not be otherwise. The front, which claims to be leftwing, receives no foreign military aid and no foreign advanced surgical units to attend to the groups of guerrilla fighters operating in several areas and in Kabul — since it tends to combine rural and urban fighting.

This is why Mr Qayyum stressed that in this "national liberation war" "the unification of the resistance is more important than anything else." This unification cannot mean uniformity in a country with several ethnic groups and varied characteristics, split between Shiites and Sunnites. This is a necessity if the aim is to win the struggle against the invader, which will be difficult and "very long." The front believes neither in negotiations — such as the current indirect talks in Geneva between Kabul and Pakistan under the UN aegis — nor in a rapid solution. With regard to his adversaries, Mr Qayyum stressed the word "Russians," and not "Soviets": "The USSR has betrayed its socialist objectives and perpetrates attacks and exploitation throughout the world in the name of socialism, and we prefer to talk in terms of Russian imperialists." He rejects the label "Maoist" and claims to be in favor of "democracy and social justice which, like our religion, Islam, cannot be achieved without national liberation."

These stances explain the difficulties encountered by the front in its relations with the Islamic movements. "It is very difficult, but not impossible," to secure humanitarian aid via Pakistan, Mr Qayyum explained, expressing his regret that the foreign public is acquainted mainly with the activities of the Islamic movements and are so little acquainted with those of the "patriots and revolutionaries."

SPA: Mujahidin Reportedly 'Control' New Province

LD211943 Riyadh SPA in English 1908 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Islamabad, April 21, SPA — The mujahidin have turned back a convoy carrying food and munitions to the Mahmud Raqi headquarters of the newly created Kapisa Province, the Afghan press agency said here today.

The agency said the Soviet-Karmal forces withdrew towards Jalalabad and that the mujahidin were in complete control of the new province.

The mujahidin attacked a 500-vehicle convoy in the Panjsher valley and destroyed two oil tankers, an ammunition truck and two armoured vehicles. The agency said the mujahidin had also captured a number of heavy machine guns, [figure indistinct] 122 mm canons, two light machine guns and eight Kalashinkovs. It added that the Soviet gunships had bombed residential areas and several houses in the valley. "Five mujahidin were killed and several others injured while Soviet casualties were estimated at 200," the agency said.

3-Day Soviet Offensive in Afghanistan Reported

BK220358 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan said that the Soviet-Karmal forces killed a number of people, including women and children, during their 3-day operations along Kabul-Qandahar highway in Qara Bagh subdivision. The operations were launched in the wake of reports that the Afghan mujahidin were amassing arms and ammunition in the areas under their control. The Soviet-Karmal forces had to bear losses in life and property as a result of counterattack by the local people.

Gandhi Comments on Assam, Midterm Poll Rumor
BK211654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that violence in Assam will continue to decrease. It is already showing signs of abating.

Gandhi was speaking to a group of journalist students from the Osamania University who called on her in New Delhi today. She told them that the mass media has a special responsibility at the present crucial stage of our development. While the press is entitled to have its views, the news should be presented impartially.

Answering questions, the prime minister said there can be no progress without the participation of women.

On China and Pakistan, she thought they are also trying for friendship as much as India is.

Gandhi welcomed the agreement between Tamil Nadu on sharing of Rishna waters.

On the speculation regarding midterm poll, Gandhi said only some interested people are talking about it.

Vehicular Movement Prohibited; Bomb in Gauhati
BK220408 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Apr 83

[Text] In Assam the movement of motorcycles, scooters, mopedsand auto-rickshaws has been prohibited between 1800 in the evening and 0800 in the morning under section 144 criminal procedure code in Kamrup District. This will remain in force for 1 month. The order has been issued to prevent the use of these vehicles for carrying il'egal arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, the situation in (Kharang) area of Dibrugarh District, where five persons were killed in violent incidents on Tuesday, has remained under control and peaceful. No fresh incidents have been reported from the area.

According to official sources in Gauhati, a bomb exploded yesterday in the residential compound of a government hospital in Gauhati. No one was injured in the incident.

In Barpeta town miscreants fired [at] and injured a government official.

AFP: Punjab Hindus Organize Force To Counter Sikhs
BK220804 Hong Kong AFP in English 0758 GMT 22 Apr 83

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 22 (AFP) — Hindus in Sikh-dominated Punjab State are forming an armed volunteer force to counter similar moves by Sikh extremists amid fears that the buildups might lead to a direct confrontation.

A first batch of 1,001 Hindus were reported sworn in yesterday and handed a traditional Hindu bladed weapon as the first contingent in what their leaders in Punjab hope will be a 10,000-strong force.

The move followed Sikh efforts to raise a 100,000-member armed force willing to sacrifice their lives for autonomy in their rich farming state, where Sikhs make up two-thirds of the 16 million people.

Earlier this month, the first group of 31,500 Sikhs took an oath in their holy city of Amritsar, and two other contingents are to be sworn in next month.

"We had no option, but to raise the Hindu volunteer force to defend the integrity of the nation and fight against extremists and Sikh separatist elements," said Pawan Kumar Sharma, who heads the Hindu organization.

Mr. Sharma, who administered the oath yesterday in the presence of Hindu priests, said each volunteer had been given a nine-inch-long "trisul" aa a sharp-edged weapon which Hindu legend says was used by the Hindu god of destruction "Shiva."

Mr. Sharma said the weapons, which the volunteers are to carry all the time, had been distributed for "self protection against Sikh extremists." The Sikhs enjoy a religious right to carry arms on their person.

BRIEFS

DEEP SEA MINING — India has located two sites in the central Indian Ocean for deep sea mining. This was stated by the secretary to the department of ocean development, (A.Z. Qasim). He was addressing the national conference on instrumentation in Chandigath on 11 April. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Apr 83]

POWER PRODUCTION INCREASES — Power generation in the country went up to about 120 billion units during 1982-83. This is 6.7 percent higher than the generation for the previous year. This has been stated in the annual report of the Department of Power which was issued in New Delhi on 10 April. It says the actual generation was about 119.75 billion units during April 1982 to February 1983. The generation in the corresponding period of the preceding year was 112.2 billion units. The generation from the thermal stations has also increased by 14 percent against the previous year. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Apr 83 BK]

Materials on Iraqi Missile Attack on Dezful

Propaganda Headquarters Communique

GF211130 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Communique by War Propaganda Headquarters — date, place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The mercenary regime of Iraq once more smeared its criminal hands in the blood of the martyr-nurturing and proud people of Dezful by martyring many gallant people of our Muslim homeland and again proved its ancient hatred of Islam.

The infidel Saddam who knows that the Islamic warriors in compliance with the instructions of the heavenly Koran and on the basis of directives by the imam of the nation will never open fire on residential areas in Iraq crazily has threatened to do this in order to repulse the Islamic warriors' attacks on the battlefields. It intends to retaliate by opening fire on the innocent people in Iranian border cities.

The Baghdad dictator, following a heavy defeat in the first stage of the Wal Fajr offensive and to revive the morale of his defeated Ba'thist commanders, has aimed at the cities, contrary to international law and tradition, in the vain hope that these barbaric attacks will weaken the will of the martyr-nurturing peoples.

The War Propaganda Headquarters, in order to reveal and record the crimes of Saddam for history, and to prove the just and innocent stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to portray the resisting morale of the heroic people of Dezful, who are the rearward worthy supporters of the Islamic warriors in spite of the beastly attacks by the Iraq Ba'thist leadership, has invited news agency representatives in Iran to visit the recent crimes of Saddam in Dezful. The correspondents are asked to contact the Ministry of Guidance on 21 April for further coordination.

Majlis Speaker Comments

LD212231 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA — "I am sorry that the world is silent in the face of the numerous crimes of Saddam and that it is showing its ugly face, by backing hypocrisy," said Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning.

The speaker who was talking to a group of the members of the Islamic associations, offcials of revolutionary organisations, deplored the recent crime of Saddam, i.e. missile attacking Dezful which led to the martyrdom and wounding of many innocent civilians.

He said Saddam was jeopardizing the Persian Gulf states, while these same countries' financial support has enabled him to continue his war against Iran.

The speaker then noted that USSR and France were greatly involved in this crime since they were the manufacturers of these missiles which were fired at Dezful. He said Iran could devastate Basra with canons and artillery produced in Iran, but had not done so, on the grounds of Islamic, humanitarian principles, as opposed to the Iraqis who has ceaselessly bombarded Abadan.

Referring to the great number of the Iraqi refugees, and Iranian war-stricken people, and all the problems arising from them, the speaker said despite all these problems Iran did not allow its combatants to shell an Iraqi town even for once, since Iran had nothing against the Iraqi people, and did not want to make them suffer.

In conclusion, the speaker said the superpowers try to quell the Islamic Republic of Iran since it was against oppression colonialism, exploitation and aggressions, while it backed the deprived people, while they supported Iraq for it was subservient to superpowers.

IRNA Denunciation

GF211725 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 21 IRNA — The latest missile attack on residential areas of the southern city of Dezful, by the Iraqi forces, once more proved to the world the falsity of the Iraqi regime's peace-loving gestures.

The Iraqi forces using Soviet-made missiles once again took the defenceless civilians as their victim, something that the Iranian forces have never done in the course of the 31-month-old Iraqi imposed war. Ever since the outbreak of the war in September 1980, Iranian border cities have been the target of savage attacks. Only in the previous attack on Dezful, on Dec.19 1982, some 62 civilians were martyred.

Cases of atrocities of the Iraqi regime against the innocent civilians of the Iranian border towns are endless. It has become a usual practice of the Iraqi forces to take [words indistinct] on the Iranian civilians any time the Iranian forces defeated them in the battlefields.

The Iraqi ruler having faced the defeat of its forces during the Wal Fajr offensive, first stage of which was launched on April 10, was expected to resort to such extremes in order to save face before the Iraqi people. Two days after the offensive, April 12, six Iraqi gunboats attacked two Iranian offshore oil wells, of Ardashir and Syrus in Iranian waters, and later on border cities such as Abadan, Khorramshahr, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, and Qasr-e Shirin were shelled by the Iraqi forces. Latest of all came the missile attack upon Dezful which claimed the lives of over 20 people and injured over one hundred besides the great destruction it caused.

The commander of the Ground Forces, Colonel 'Ali Seyyed-Shiriazi, in an interview with the evening daily ETTELA'AT today said that the missiles used in the attack were Soviet-made SKAD-B which are nine meters long. He then added the continued atrocities by the Iraqi regime, but would urge us on to fight it with an augmented zeal, a higher devotion.

The Islamic Republic officials anticipating overreaction on the part of Saddam Husayn and predicted such acts of savagery by the Iraqi ruler. Right after the success gained by the Iranian forces in Wal Fajr operation, the head of the War Information Headquarters, Kamal Kharrazi, in a press conference on April 14 said the Iraqi regime, humilated by its recent stunning defeats by the Islamic combatants of Iran, now intends to perpetrate another horrible crime the likes of which it has committed many times in the past.

Furthermore Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi speaking after a Cabinet minister meeting last Wednesday said that Iraqi regime having access to other armaments was hatching other plots against Iran adding that the Iranian forces throughout the course of the war had not fired even a single shot at Iraqi residential areas adhering to their high Islamic principles. The prime minister of the Islamic Republic stressed that the Islamic Republic forces would continue the same policy.

It is ironic that the Iraqi regime has been committing these brutal acts at a time when it is hosting a so-called Islamic conference held to find a solution to the Iraqi imposed war. The Iraqi ruler resorting to his practice of double standards, has been making peace gestures on the one hand and has been shelling the Iranian civilian areas on the other. However, a comparison between his words and deed would make it clear to the world opinion that Saddam Husayn has been the sole cause of the unrest in the region and other problems such as contamination of Persian Gulf waters.

The Islamic Republic officials have repeatedly reiterated that Iran sought recovery of its justified rights and nothing else. However, the Iraqi regime instead of meeting demands of Iran has repeated its savage acts which in all cases have backlashed.

Tehran Commentary

GF220430 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In his speech at the false Islamic conference, Saddam claimed that he has not killed a (?child) [words indistinct] in any Iranian town. Just few days after this statement, Saddam actually proved that he does not practice what he preaches. This is the habit of weak rulers who have no principles or have no conscience.

What was Saddam thinking about when he launched ground-to-ground missiles on Dezful? Did he think he was going to destroy an army stationed in the city or that he would destroy fortified military positions while he was launching his rockets aimlessly?

The Iraqi regime's claims that the Islamic Republic has bombed Iraqi towns are false and there is no proof of this. Even the regime has no proof , if it really took place, that Islamic forces have bombed Iraqi towns. The rulers of Iraq would have taken the advantage of this shelling and issued thousands of rumors and would have regarded it as a big media victory because they really want the Islamic Republic to carry out such acts in order to smear the good image of the Islamic Revolution in the eyes of the peoples of the world.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,292

LD211743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,292 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Battles continued during the past 24 hours in the operational sector in the western part of the country. On one of the Bakhtaran border fronts, a patrol of Islam's combatants, penetrating the enemy's defensive positions, succeeded in inflicting losses and casualties on the Saddamist aggressors. They returned safely to their defensive positions. In the same region, a truck carrying Iraqi servicemen and several enemy trenches were destroyed. On the old Shur Shirin front, two trenches of the Saddamist forces were destroyed.

On the Marivan front, thanks to our artillery units' heavy fire on enemy positions and installations, losses were inflicted on the Iraqi military on the other side of the border. Movements and activities of the Saddamist forces in the Hargineh region were halted.

During the past 24 hours, the defenders of our Islamic homeland on the southern fronts and in the Wal Fajr operational zone continued the defense of their positions and, by deploying retaliatory fire on the Saddamist positions and units, prevented the enemy from making any movement or operations.

In the Abadan and Khorramshahr operational zone, while preventing enemy traffic on the opposite bank of the Arvand Rud, seven Saddamist trenches were destroyed.

Yesterday, apart from the missile attack launched by Saddam's Zionist regime on the heroic city of Dezful, resulting in a great many martyrs and wounded and much damage, the enemy also destroyed several houses and shops in Abadan with its heavy weapons fire.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Combatants Set Fire to Iraqi Oil Installations

LD212234 Tehran IRNA in English 2000 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Ahvaz, April 21, IRNA — The Al-Faw oil installations of Iraq came under fire by the Islamic combatants which set ablaze and destroyed two oil reservoirs and two warehouses of the installations over the past 24 hours. The installations were seen burning for several hours.

Battle also raged between the two sides on the Arvand River banks during the same time while the superior fire-power of the Iranian defenders, smashing Iraqi equipment and fortified positions, killed a number of the enemy troops.

Abadan was barraged by the Iraqi long-range artillery fire which wounded a civilian and damaged more residential units and shops over the afore-mentioned time.

Gendarmerie Asks Youths To Join War Effort

GF210520 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1400 GMT 19 Apr 83

[Text] The Gendarmerie unit in Fasa today announced that high school graduates eligible for service who were born between 1957 and 1963, have been graduated between May and September of last year or in previous years and who have received draft notices from Fasa, Jahrum, Darab, Estahban, and Neyriz, are asked to go to the service section of the Gendarmerie in Fasa. The graduates are asked to bring six copies of their birth certificates and latest high school reports. The last week for induction is 23-30 April.

Khalkhali Speaks on Embassy Blast at Majlis Session

GF221236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The last preagenda speaker at today's open session of the Majlis was Mr Sadeq Khalkhali, the deputy representing the people of Qom.

Referring to the tendency of the imperialist propaganda loudspeakers to attribute the U.S. Embassy explosion in Beirut to the Islamic Republic of Iran and addressing the leaders of world oppression and apostasy, he said:

The explosion of your center for the coordination of your activities in Lebanon is the result of your own actions. You are to blame for the tragic and dastardly massacre of 5,000 defenseless Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila camps. You are responsible for setting fire to the world and have always trampled humanitarianism.

Clandestine Radio Account

LD211806 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Sadeq Khalkhali has announced that the Islamic Republic was responsible for the explosion at the American Embassy in Lebanon. According to our correspondent in Tehran, Sadeq Khalkhali, in a speech in the Majlis carried live on the FM band in Tehran and listened to by our correspondent, confirmed the role of the Islamic Republic in the bombing of the American Embassy building in Beirut. Khalkhali is the head of the terrorist Fadaiyan-e Eslam organization. The government's Tehran radio censored Khalkhalis speech during its midday newscast but reported the remarks of Rafsanjani.

Khalkhali put the responsibility for the explosion in the hands of the Islamic Republic at the time when Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of this regime, yesterday denied any participation of elements supporting Ayatollah Khomeyni in this explosion. Repeated denials by the regime of Khomeyni had made the Western intelligence agencies cast aside the possibility of the Islamic Republic's involvement in the incident. However,a claim for the responsibility by the Islamic Crusade Organization, an affiliate of Khomeyni's regime, and the official confirmation by Sadeq Khalkhali, a Majlis member, shows that the Islamic Republic had a hand in the American Embassy explosion.

Spokesman Denies Involvement in Baghdad Blast

LD212041 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in an interview with our reporter, denied statements of the Iraqi minister of information concerning attributing the bomb explosion in Baghdad to Tehran. He added: The Iraqi regime, which imposed considerable damage upon the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq, now is faced with the increasing wave of opposition by the Muslim Iraqi nation, has no alternative other than to attribute the self-created movement of the Iraqi Muslim nation to Iran.

The spokesman of the Foreign Ministry further added: The regime ruling over Iraq attempts to cover the opposition and uprising of the Iraqi Muslim nation by such baseless rumors and by (?diverting) the world public opinion from its numerous crimes, including the missile attack against Dezful city yesterday, and in this way is trying to find new excuses for continuing with his crimes against the Iranian Muslim people.

Commentary on Beirut U.S. Embassy Explosion

GF211210 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The United States should leave the region and look for another place where it can hatch plots. It is not safe from the people's anger which is increasing daily. There is no security and confidence in the United States or its allies in the region. Our Islamic land is forbidden to the imperialists and after today there will not be a foothold for any foreigner or wicked one.

The Islamic peoples have sworn to block the imperialistsand to become bombs which explode in the U.S. spy courtyards. They have sworn to close the doors in the face of the greedy invaders and to demolish the castles which they established on Islamic lands in the name of embassies. The United States should have learned a lesson from the occupation of its embassy in Tehran at the hands of the angry student masses and should have thought a thousand times before carrying out a disgraceful act which harms the independence and security of the Islamic peoples. The land is not paved for their horses or plots, but is a flaming land in which anger boils.

Washington thought that it is easy to reach any strategic point in the Islamic world and that its military presence will scare people and make them forget about any confrontation. The imperialist politicians forgot that our Islamic land is alive all over at all times and that the people are not afraid of lashes, fleets, or nuclear warheads.

In Lebanon, -- which following the Zionist invasion became the most powerful and largest military base for the United States and the NATO countries — the peoples' great rage spread and was directed against the U.S. spy castle in Asia and Africa. Despite the terrorism and the presence of U.S. soldiers throughout Beirut and despite the strongholds imposed around the embassy, the Muslim Lebanese masses could make their thundering voice heard inside the embassy and tell the United States and the world that they object to the U.S. military presence in Lebanon.

Thus, the expectations and assumptions upon which the U.S. Administration was depending had vanished. The (?fear) barrier which was established by Washington in Beirut and throughout Lebanon collapsed. The security barrier which was established around the spy center in the region collapsed and it became clear to everyone that the United States which cannot protect its embassy despite all its technological means, cannot protect its interests and those of its satellite regimes.

Washington thought about all the possibilities before starting to implement its aggressive intentions in the world. It thought of all things except the determination of the people through which they can upset the scales. Whenever there is a suicide operation, nuclear warheads will never be able to do anything. Whenever there is a desire for martyrdom by certain people, fleets, bombers, and aircraft carriers will never be able to do anything.

U.S. politicians forgot that there are people who prefer to die rather than to live in disgrace and that there are people who are ready to burn themselves to death for others for the light of freedom and independence, a thing which actually took place in Lebanon at the hands of the victorious Islamic vanguard group. The operation embodied heroism, sacrifice, and complete rejection of any form of military presence and announced to the entire world that all disasters that prevailed in Lebanon were a result of U.S. plotting.

Lebanon will not rest as long as Washington maintains its political and military game in Lebanon and so long as the U.S. Embassy [words indistinct] operates with total freedom. The way to liberate Lebanon from problems and quandaries cannot be achieved before liberating it from the claws of U.S. imperialism. This is the reason for the operation — to explain to the world and to public opinion.

Thus, we can say that the explosion at the U.S. Embassy was only an expression of the suffering and indignation the Lebanese people have toward the tyrannical occupation and that the target was not only Washington but also the Zionist enemy. This will be proved during the next days, God willing.

Ambassador Disclaims Pollution Meeting in Oman

GF211745 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA — The head of the Council of Ministers of the Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment, 'Ali Shams Ardakani, today denied the statement by Omani ambassador to Kuwait to the effect that seven of the council's member countries have accepted to attend a meeting in Muscat.

Contacted by IRNA, Ardakani, who is also the Iranian ambassador to Kuwait, said in a telephone contact with the Omani Ambassador Sa'ud Salim al-'Ans, I accepted only to distribute Oman's invitation among member countries to attend session in that country. But due to lack of familiarity with English language he thinks that his country's invitation has been accepted.

Ardakani further said that Oman's invitation was distributed among the member countries and as of Wednesday afternoon Iran, Kuwait, Bahrain and U.A.E. had objected to the Muscat's hosting of the session. In the light of these facts, he added, the claim of the Omani official that seven members of the council had accepted the invitation, was unfounded.

It should be recalled that the health minister of Kuwait, 'Abdallah al-'Awadi, recently announced that his country had taken necessary measures for hosting the next session of the council hoping that this meeting would be held in Kuwait in the middle of next week.

Towns Liberated From 'Counterrevolutionaries'

LD211722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] A report from the Hamzeh Seyyed ash-Shohada Headquarters states that the combatants of Islam, consisting of the devotees of the Revolution Guards Corps and the mobilization unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the heroes of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the brave personnel of the Gendarmerie, in a series of coordinated operations carried out today, managed to liberate 12 km of the sensitive Piranshshar-Mahabad road occupied by the counterrevolutionaries.

During these operations, they inflicted heavy losses on the counterrevolutionaries and destroyed the bases of the armed assailants in the villages of (Likbin), Khoran, (Kanibedagh), and (Shagholeh). The forces of Islam took up positions in these areas.

During the seizure of the village of (Likbin), considerable documents and equipment were seized from the counterrevolutionaries' prison. The documents talk of the deep relations between the armed assailants and the Iraqi Ba'thists. In these fully successful operations the forces of Islam suffered no casualties.

NVOI Cites Communist Statement on Tudeh Party

TA212104 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Concern and Warning of Progressive Mankind"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The continued detention and uncertain fate of a group of members of the Iranian Tudeh Party's leadership apparatus — noble human beings who devoted their entire conscious, fruitful, and exuberant life in defense of independence, freedom, and social justice and in struggle against imperialism, colonialism, and reaction — has not only aroused the concern of

our society's public opinion but that of progressive mankind and of all supporters of our nation's glorious revolution as well.

The concern of progressive mankind and of the sincere supporters of our nation's revolution is not without foundation. Progressive mankind is well acquainted with the criminal ploy of the rightists and the elements of world-devouring America. World public opinion knows that the ultrarightists and the superficials, these staunch supporters of the rich and the prosperous and parasitic stratum, will not refrain from resorting to any crime in order to maintain their plundering domination. World public opinion knows how after every popular, anticolonialist, and anti-imperialist revolution, reactionary forces and the superficials, in order to defend the greedy interests of the social plunderers and their Western masters, launched a cowardly campaign of unfounded accusations wrapped in the gold foil of falsehood and deception — a rightist and misleading falsehood — against the noblest revolutionary sons of our nation.

It is for this reasosn that one can appreciate the concern held by public opinion over the fate of a number of our nation's revolutionary children, where currently as a result of the rightists' plot the Islamic Republic of Iran has become their jailer.

In this connection, it is appropriate that we inform the dear compatriots of parts of statements and letters by the world's revolutionary parties and organizations with respect to the development of the arrest of a number of leaders of the Iranian Tudeh Party

Recently, representatives of a number of revolutionary and labor parties such as the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Communist Parties of Australia, Denmark, Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Greece, Iraq, Tunisia, Uruguay, Turkey, Norway, America, Syria, and Japan, the Cypriot Progressive Party of the Working People, the People's Progressive Party of Guyana, the National Progressive Unionist Party of Egypt, the Communist Party of the German Federal Republic, the Freedom Party of Switzerland, the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, the Irish Labor Party, and the Socialist Unity Party of the German Democratic Republic, following an exchange of views regarding our homeland's recent developments in their meeting in March, adopted a statement cautioning the struggling Muslims in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It is said in this statement that the recent onslaught by the rightists against the Iranian Tudeh Party and the detention of some of the party's leaders, particularly Comrade Nureddin Kianuri, first secretary of the Iranian Tudeh Party, must be regarded as a turning point in the destiny of the gains of the Iranian people's anti-imperialist and popular revolution. After referring to the bitter historical fact that reaction and imperialism have repeatedly resorted to assailing the Iranian Tudeh Party and to the filthy and imperialist-fabricated weapon of the charge of espionage and to the forging of documents in order to drown our nation's popular movement in blood, the statement by some of the world's Communist and Labor Parties says: A large number of children of Iranian toilers who were brought up by this party were sent to the firing squad for this same charge during the imperial regime, were sentenced to prison and endured torture and deportation. Historical experience in the countries of this region and outside it during the current era and in the past teaches that assault on the democratic and legal rights of the most consistent anti-imperialist and antireactionary strugglers is the beginning of the final defeat of the revolution.

While mentioning that the place of the Iranian Revolution and the newly born and independent Islamic Republic is in the huge international anti-imperialist front and at the side of liberation anti-imperialist movements and that the perpetuation and final victory of the Iranian Revolution is conditional on the establishment of a popular united front within the country with the participation of the true defenders of the revolution, both revolutionary Muslims and revolutionary dissenters, the statement by some of the world's Communist and Labor Parties in connection with the arrest of some of the Iranian Tudeh Party leaders goes on to say: We, the undersigned, who are the true supporters of the Iranian people's anti-imperialist and popular revolution, express our deep concern over the arrest of part of the Iranian Tudeh Party leadership, headed by Comrade Nureddin Kianuri, first secretary of the party, and warn that the entire gains of the Iranian people's anti-imperialist and popular revolution are in danger. We, who are among the most international and consistent defenders and allies of the Iranian people's anti-imperialist and popular revolution, are deeply concerned over the safety of the arrested comrades.

It is then stated at the conclusion of the statement by a number of the world's Communist and Labor Parties in connection with the detention of some leaders of the Iranian Tudeh Party: In view of the abovementioned points and being aware of the importance and historical impact of the Iranian people's anti-imperialist and popular revolution, we request the government of the struggling Muslims in Iran, by releasing the arrested comrades of the Iranian Tudeh Party leadership, especially Comrade Nureddin Kianuri, and by removing restrictions on the political and legal activity of the Iranian Tudeh Party, to open the way for the revolution's expansion and to stop the progress and consolidation of the positions of reactionary forces.

These were important parts of statements by some of the world's Communist and Labor Parties in connection with the detention of a number of Iranian Tudeh Party leaders and recent developments in our homeland.

Iraqi Opposition Statement on Baghdad Blasts Cited

LD212247 Tehran IRNA in English 2024 GMT 21 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA — The Iraqi central radio and television installations and the Iraqi Air Force establishments were exploded this morning in an operation named "Martyr Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer Sadr", thus inflicting heavy damages on the two centers, announced a statement issued by the Iraqi Muslim mojahedin movement in London today.

According to the statement, an Iraqi Sunni Muslim mojahedin member named Abu Eba' who carried out the operation against the radio and television center in Baghdad's As-Salihiyah region, was martyred in the explosion while many Iraqi mercenaries were killed too.

The groups who have helped bring about the operation have successfully returned to their bases, the statement added.

The statement said that the Iraqi Air Force installations have been exploded in the Al-Adliyah region of Baghdad, in addition to the Iraqi information organisation, the research sections, the military officers politico-ideological section, printing headquarters, the communications section, electronic calculations section, and the Air Force communication center for the Middle East.

Abu Ammar, who was responsible for the Air Force explosion was himself martyred in the course of the explosion. An Iraqimojahedin member in Tehran said that the explosions were sointense that a 30-kilometer radius around the centers have been shaken as a result.

An Iraqi mojahedin member in London said that the same statement has been sent to Western news agencies in London too.

The explosions occurred because of the Iraqi dictator's escalating oppressions against the Iraqi people. Prior to this, the Raqi Muslims had exploded the Interior Ministry of Iraq, the Iraqi News Agency, the Iraqi Planning Organisation, the Al-Hurriyah publication center, Ayn Zalah oil installations, and the Samawah cement factory.